

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A container cap assembly for providing a closure for large mouth containers having male threads surrounding an open end thereof comprising:

a molded plastic annular cap body formed symmetrically about a longitudinal axis with a lower and upper section, the lower section having an outer surface and an inner surface defining female threads thereon for cooperation with matching threads on the container, the upper section of the cap body forming an annular upwardly extending flange terminating in a peripheral rim with an inner surface extending downwardly from the rim providing unobstructed access to the container interior;

a molded plastic lid member having a top surface terminating in a downwardly extending peripheral rim, a bottom surface and an annular downwardly extending flange spaced inwardly from the peripheral rim;

a hinge pivotally connecting the lid member and the cap body whereby the lid member is arranged to pivot between a closed position in which the opening in the container is closed and an open position in which unobstructed access is provided through the opening in the container, the flanges having interlocking sealing surfaces in the closed position with the sealing surfaces of the cap body and lid member flanges extending outwardly at an acute angle  $\theta$  to the vertical and inwardly at an acute angle  $\lambda$  to the vertical, respectively, ~~with  $\theta \neq \lambda$  at an acute angle to the vertical~~, the interlocking flanges in their closed position locking the assembly together and providing the only sealing means for the container.

2. (Currently Amended) The container cap assembly of claim 1 wherein ~~the sealing surfaces of the cap body and lid member flanges are oriented at angles of  $\theta$  and  $\lambda$  to the vertical, respectively, with  $\theta$  and  $\lambda$  being~~ are within the ranges of about  $8^\circ$  to  $24^\circ$  and  $10^\circ$  to  $18^\circ$ , respectively.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Previously Amended) The container cap assembly of claim 1 wherein the cap body and lid are each integrally molded as a single unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The container cap assembly of claim [[3]] 1 wherein  $\theta$  and  $\lambda$  are within the ranges of about  $15^\circ$  to  $21^\circ$  and  $12^\circ$  to  $16^\circ$ , respectively.

6. (Previously Amended) The container cap assembly of claim 2 wherein the cap body and lid member are injection molded from a plastic having a Rockwell R hardness within the range of about 60 to 80.

7. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 6 wherein the plastic has Rockwell R hardness of about 80.

8. (Currently Amended) The container cap assembly of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the difference between  $\theta$  and  $\lambda$  is greater than  $2^\circ$ .

9. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 8 wherein  $\theta$  is about  $18^\circ$  and  $\lambda$  is about  $14^\circ$

10. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 2 wherein the cap body and lid member are made of polypropylene.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently Amended) The container cap assembly of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21 wherein each of the flanges terminate in a free edge, the inner surface of the lid flange curving outwardly below the sealing surface thereof to engage the free edge of the cap body flange and flex said lid flange outwardly as the lid flange is snapped over the cap body flange.

13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) The container cap assembly of claim ~~[[13]]~~ 12 wherein  $\theta$  is within the range of about  $8^\circ$  to  $24^\circ$  and  $\lambda$  is within the range of about  $10^\circ$  to  $18^\circ$ .

15. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 14 wherein  $\theta$  is within the range of about  $15^\circ$  to  $21^\circ$  and  $\lambda$  is within the range of about  $12^\circ$  to  $16^\circ$ .

16. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 15 wherein  $\theta$  is about  $18^\circ$  and  $\lambda$  is about  $14^\circ$ .

17. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 12 wherein the lid member is formed with a peripheral rim extending downwardly from the top surface and outwardly from the lid flange and further including a downwardly extending tongue formed integrally with the peripheral rim, the tongue terminating in an outwardly extending finger engaging portion to aid a user in opening the lid member.

18. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 17 wherein the hinge is formed by a pair of space axle stubs formed integrally with the lid member and opposite the tongue and a pair of upwardly extending cooperating spaced slots in the cap body member, the spaced slots terminating in semi-cylindrical bores for receiving the axle studs.

19. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 18 wherein the slots have a slightly smaller width than the diameter of the axle studs to allow the axle studs to be snapped into the cooperating bores and wherein the axle studs are formed with an extension on one side thereof to provide a resistance to the rotation of the lid member through a preselected angle so that once the lid is rotated through said angle the lid will be held in an open position allowing unobstructed access to the opening in the container.

20. (Original) The container cap assembly of claim 1 further including a releasable handle connected to the cap body.

21. (New) A container cap assembly for providing a closure for large mouth containers having male threads of a diameter of at least 53 mm surrounding an open end thereof comprising:

a plastic annular cap body formed having a lower and an upper section, the lower section having an outer wall and an inner wall defining female threads for cooperation with matching threads on the container, the upper section forming an upwardly extending flange terminating in a peripheral rim with an inner surface extending downwardly from the rim providing an unobstructed access to the container interior, the upwardly extending flange defining an exterior sealing surface which tapers outwardly at an acute angle of  $\theta$  with respect to the vertical in the unstressed condition of the flange; and

a plastic lid member pivotally hinged to the cap body whereby the lid member is arranged to pivot to a closed position in which the opening in the container is closed and an open position in which unobstructed access is provided through the

opening in the container, the lid member having a top and a bottom surface and a downwardly extending flange, the lid flange defining an interior sealing surface which tapers inwardly at an angle of  $\lambda$  with respect to the vertical in the unstressed condition of the lid flange, where  $\theta \neq \lambda$ , the lid flange being arranged to snap over the cap body flange to secure the lid member when the lid member is pressed downwardly with the sealing surfaces forming an interference fit to provide a liquid tight seal between the cap body and lid member, the flanges in their closed position providing the only closure and locking means for the container.